

**INTELLIGENT PCI BRIDGING****ABSTRACT**

A bridging device has at least two ports. The first port allows the device to  
5 communicate with devices on an expansion bus and at least one other port to allow the bridge  
to communicate with a system memory on a system bus or other devices on another  
expansion bus. The device is capable of identifying at least two regions in memory, a  
descriptor region and a data region. A descriptor provides information about segments of  
data in the data region. The bridge may detect descriptors read from the memory, extract  
10 information related to data associated with those descriptors and use this information to  
perform prefetching of data from the system memory.